

**House File 615 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 615  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 391)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to private instruction, including the issuance  
2 of diplomas or credentials to students who complete private  
3 instruction and the authority of parents, guardians, and  
4 legal custodians to execute documents to verify student  
5 information.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **299A.13 Diplomas and credentials.**

2 1. A diploma or credential issued by a person who  
3 administers a program of secondary education under competent  
4 private instruction or independent private instruction pursuant  
5 to this chapter shall be deemed sufficient to demonstrate for  
6 all purposes that the recipient has completed the program of  
7 secondary education and has attained the equivalent of a high  
8 school diploma.

9 2. The state, a political subdivision of the state,  
10 institutions of higher education under the control of the state  
11 board of regents, or an accredited private institution as  
12 defined in section 261.9, shall not discriminate against any  
13 individual based on the source of the individual's diploma or  
14 credential and shall treat a diploma or credential awarded for  
15 completion of a program of secondary education under competent  
16 private instruction or independent private instruction the  
17 same as a high school diploma awarded by a school district or  
18 accredited nonpublic school.

19 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **299A.14 Verification of enrollment.**

20 The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child of  
21 compulsory attendance age shall have the authority to execute  
22 any document required by law to verify any of the following:

23 1. The placement of a child under competent private  
24 instruction or independent private instruction.

25 2. The child's full-time or part-time status in competent  
26 private instruction or independent private instruction.

27 3. The grades the child has obtained in competent private  
28 instruction or independent private instruction.

29 4. Any other required educational information.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill relates to private instruction, including the  
34 issuance of diplomas or credentials to students who complete  
35 private instruction and the authority of parents, guardians,

1 and legal custodians to execute documents to verify student  
2 information.

3 The bill provides that a diploma or credential issued by  
4 a person who administers a program of secondary education  
5 under competent private instruction or independent private  
6 instruction pursuant to Code chapter 299A (private instruction)  
7 shall be deemed sufficient to demonstrate that the recipient  
8 has completed the program of secondary education and has  
9 attained the equivalent of a high school diploma.

10 The bill prohibits the state, a political subdivision of  
11 the state, institutions of higher education under the control  
12 of the state board of regents, or an accredited private  
13 institution from discriminating against any individual based  
14 on the source of the individual's diploma or credential and  
15 shall treat a diploma or credential awarded for completion  
16 of a program of secondary education under competent private  
17 instruction or independent private instruction the same as a  
18 high school diploma awarded by a school district or accredited  
19 nonpublic school.

20 The bill provides that the parent, guardian, or legal  
21 custodian of a child of compulsory attendance age shall  
22 have the authority to execute any document required by law  
23 to verify the placement of a child under competent private  
24 instruction or independent private instruction, the child's  
25 full-time or part-time status in competent private instruction  
26 or independent private instruction, the grades the child has  
27 obtained in competent private instruction or independent  
28 private instruction, or any other required educational  
29 information.